

BELGIUM AND HER COMMERCIAL
DEVELOPMENT

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BELGIUM AND HER COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

BY

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PREFACE.

The present work is my first attempt to write on commercial subjects, and it is so natural that certain important points may have been lost sight of, which such work ought to contain; but the longfelt want of commercial information regarding Belgian trade in general, and with India in particular, is my excuse for bringing out this brochure.

In placing this work before my readers, interested in the commercial development of the country, an appeal may be made to them to remember that the chief advantage of international trade is the supplying of either country's necessities by the superfluity of the other. In various instances, we observe that each country receives articles for the production of which she has no greater facilities than the countries from which such articles are obtained. International trade has proved of incalculable benefit all over, and while not pretending on an exhaustive treatment of a subject, so prolific in its bearings and wide in its effects, I have tried to show what it has done for the commercial and industrial advancement of Belgium and what India has to gain from her. The great economist, Adam Smith, in his "Wealth of Nations," has well said that "foreign trade carries out that surplus part of the produce of their land and labour for which there is no demand among them and brings back in return for it something else for which there

is a demand." Another well-known writer in the "Select Tract on Commerce" says that "trade is nothing else but a commutation of superfluities."

The industrial and commercial state of India can hardly be compared with the other sister countries, equally gifted with natural resources of a vast and varied order, together with a capacity for development which is almost absent in this country, but much can be expected from the regenerating spirit, the budding of which is so marked a feature of the present state of India's trade. The industrial and economical development of a small country like Belgium does not owe its origin and increase to any motives of sheer patriotism, as will be seen from the descriptive account given in these pages, but to her enterprise, self-sacrifice, technical skill and ardour. It is an acknowledged and indisputable fact that the material progress of a country depends primarily more on her industries and commerce than on politics and other agitations.

I shall feel amply rewarded if this work leads businessmen in Belgium and India to a wider cultivation of commercial relations between both the countries, whose futures are to be greatly benefitted thereby. I shall be most happy to receive suggestions and inquiries from persons interesting themselves in the development of commercial relations between Belgium and India.

G. S. M.

Bombay, April 1909.

BELGIUM AND HER COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

CHAPTER I.

SHORT HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION.

BELGIUM was originally inhabited by Celtic people and subsequently by Teutonic invaders. She was then conquered by Cæsar and remained under Roman Rule till the middle of the 5th century. During the period of the Roman rule, Christian Missionaries from Cologne had introduced their religion in some parts but it did not spread all over Belgium, till the 7th century. By the treaty of Verdun, provinces of Flanders and Artois were taken away by France, while Eastern provinces became the property of Germany. Flanders soon became very prosperous by her commercial enterprise and model manufacturings of several important articles. In 1384, Flanders was annexed to Burgundy. Religious agitations, unbearable treatment by Spanish troops and other internal causes and grievances, caused several disturbances, and the King had to send the Duke of Alva with an army of 20,000 men to suppress the disturbances. The cruel treatment

of the Duke resulted in the famous revolt of the United Netherlands. The success of Northern provinces in the above revolt forms the present kingdom of Holland, and Southern districts, the present kingdom of Belgium. The kingdom of Belgium at last succeeded in getting civic liberties and other rights during the regime of the Duke of Parma from 1578 to 1592.

In the year 1794 the kingdom of Belgium, owing to the Brabant Revolution, came under the rule of the French Republic and in the year 1814, the French supremacy was finally shaken off.

Belgium and Holland were united under the name of the kingdom of the Netherlands, under the treaty of London on the 28th June 1814. The revolution of 1830 was the cause of the severance of union with Holland. The Provincial Government immediately summoned a National Congress by which the son of Louis Philippe was to become the Sovereign of Belgium, but the French Authorities declined to recognise the selection, and the French monarch put forth the right of his son, Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg, and finally this claim was recognised by the Congress and Prince Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg thus ascended the throne of Belgium on 21st July, 1831.

The treaty of six great powers signed by their representatives at London on 15th November 1831, although not recognised by the King of Holland

till the year 1839, made the kingdom of Belgium one of the most important independent states in Europe.

The present ruler of the Belgians is King Leopold II, who, born in the year 1835, ascended the throne of Belgium on 10th December 1865. Since the year 1885, King Leopold has become the Sovereign of the Congo Free States.

The position and boundaries of Belgium fill up the angle between North-East France and Western Germany. The Kingdom of Belgium has an area of 11,373 square miles. It is 160 miles in length from east to west and 115 miles in breadth. This country is divided into nine provinces, the total population being over 7,000,000, according to the last Census. Next to Saxony, Belgium is the most densely peopled country on the Continent.

The Belgians are of two different races,—the Walloons and the Flemings. The language of the educated and official classes is French. Belgium had long been the battlefield of several nations, as many great battles, such as Waterloo, Ramillies and Oudenarde, Steinkerk, Landen, and Spurs, were fought on her soil.

The capital of the Kingdom of Belgium is Brussels. The Belgian Constitution, which was drawn up by the National Congress, is considered to be entirely free in the whole world. The Constitution vests all the powers in the hands of the

people or their representatives. It gives perfect equality to all the Belgians in the eyes of law. The individual freedom, toleration of all religious opinions and liberty of press are enjoyed by this nation in their true sense.

The Government of the country is constituted in three general powers, *viz.*, Legislative, Judicial and Executive, and all these powers are equally vested in the people of the country. The Legislative power of making laws and regulations is exercised by the King, the Senate and the representatives of the Chambers. The Judicial powers are exercised by the Courts and Tribunals, composed of expert Judges appointed by the King. And the Executive power is vested in the King, who can exercise the same independently or with the help of his Ministers. The Executive power of the King chiefly empowers him to sanction laws, and cause them to be properly executed by the Ministers appointed by him, to command the army, to declare war, to make treaties of any nature, to coin money, to confer titles and distinctions, to mitigate sentences passed by the highest Tribunals or granting pardon, and to appoint officers in the various branches of the Administration.

Though the King himself is irresponsible, he is to work with seven responsible Ministers in charge of different departments, such as affairs, Home, Judicial, Financial, Agricultural, Educa-

tional, Commercial and Industrial, Public Works, Railways, War and Foreign offices, &c. As a matter of rule, all the Royal decrees must be countersigned by the Minister in charge of the department, they may be pertaining to. The proceedings against ministers are taken only with the permission of the Representatives of the Chambers. The other Ministers of State without any charge of a particular department act only as advisers to the King. The King is generally represented in Foreign Governments by his Ambassadors, Ministers-Plenipotentiary and Consuls. The representatives of the King in Foreign Courts have to watch and safeguard the commercial and political interests of the country. The interest taken by these representatives of the King in Foreign Courts tends greatly to the development of trade and commerce. The consular matters are entrusted to merchants, supervised by the Tribunals or Courts of Justice for Commerce nominated by the King.

The constitution of the Belgian laws guarantees all freedom for any religion or creed. The Protestants, Catholics, Jews and followers of other religions enjoy perfect freedom.

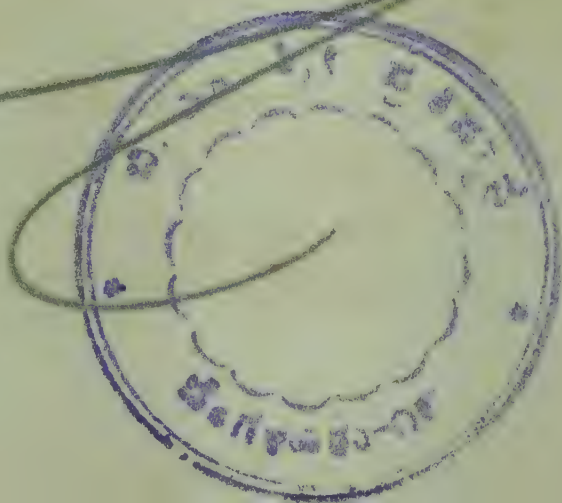
Belgium is no less an important country in matters of Education and Public Instruction. Education for advanced students and elementary and primary education are given in public schools

and colleges under well organised systems. There are several well conducted institutions where instructions are given by experts. The institutions for receiving education in Law, Philosophy, Medicine, Trade and Commerce, Engineering, Mining, Science, Arts, Manufacturing, Agriculture, Veterinary, Navigation and Religion are conducted on the most modern and accepted principles. The students are admitted into these institutions without any distinction of caste, religion or creed. Those Indian students who do not find their admission elsewhere in particular branches, may well take advantage of these institutions where instruction is imparted in several languages, including English. The difficulties experienced by Indian students in joining certain institutions in other parts of Europe will not be experienced in the least in Belgium. Besides living in this country is not very expensive. Practical instructions are given in all the branches of the subjects undertaken by the students, by which the students become most practical in the line they handle, so as to make them quite competent to work out their lines independently wherever they go. It will not be out of place to mention here that most of the Japanese experts in commerce and industry have trained themselves in one of the above institutions in Belgium, and similar is the case with most of the expert engineers throughout the length and

breadth of Europe. Looking to the facilities thus afforded by these institutions to the student world, it is a matter of regret that not a single Indian student has ever thought of taking advantage of same up till now.

Turning to the other important subject of the State Finances, the usual practice is that the State taxes are voted every year. The budget is annually submitted to Chambers who discuss at length all the items which it comprises of, scrutinizing every item of expenditure of the year ended, submitted by all the departments of the State. The Department of Finance is under the direct control of the State, having three separate branches, Treasury, Public Debt and Direct Taxation (which includes taxes on exports and imports, both). Among the chief items of expenditure the following are important ones :—

Public Debt, Pensions, Post Office and Railway Administrations, Public Works, Education, Justice, War and Foreign Offices and Agriculture under numerous heads, while the chief items of receipts are :—Taxes, Customs, &c.



CHAPTER II.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE AND ITS CAUSES.

ONE of the most striking features of the modern times is the development of international relations between different nations all over the world. Facilities for communication have brought about very close intercourse between the different countries of the world. Some two hundred years ago, the international laws were only useful for the discussion of wars and their results, but now, as the times have changed, they directly assist the international trade both in the interests of the country and other nations. The actual movement to increase and cement the trade and commercial relations between divers nations for the last fifty years, has considerably assisted the growth of domestic trade and foreign commerce as well. We must always remember that the adjustment of supply and demand is a problem that tries the skill of producers and dealers but with regard to the international trade the task is very arduous. The effect of the cross relations of the several trading countries, the regulations of supply for the distant markets and the attempts to judge what may be expected from other nations are all questions which, if they are to be solved merely by calculation, may be

surrendered as hopeless. But now as the development of international trade has properly established the permanent relations, it is evident that any such loss, so incurred, must be placed to its account.

We have always to bear in mind that when in the course of domestic trade two persons exchange their goods, it is to be assumed that each is to be benefitted, as otherwise he would never be a consenting party to the transaction. The more pressing the demand of a country for foreign articles, the greater will be the amount of home products given in exchange, and the more the other countries require the products of a particular country, the better will be the terms that she can make with them. The exporter never expects goods in exchange for what he sends out, but it is their price that he requires, and consequently the result is that all foreign trade is dependent on the conditions of price or the value of money. Money in all cases is a material instrument which facilitates the international commerce. Besides, by the growth of the credit system on which both domestic and foreign trades are now based, the fact inherent is that goods are ultimately exchanged for goods.

To prevent the country from a loss, the best course would be to take every care that there should be a permanent excess of exports over imports. When a country exports more than it imports there must be a debt due to it for the balance and

this debt could only be paid in money. The leader of the French Economists has wisely said "maintain complete liberty of commerce. For the regulation of internal and external commerce, what is most certain, most precise, and most profitable to the nation and to the state, consists in full liberty of competition." This rule, if adopted by all the trading nations, would soon result in the development of commerce in its true sense. I now venture to ask my countrymen whether this doctrine, so far reaching in its effects, has ever appealed to their senses, what if they adopted it and how can the growth of India's internal trade be expected with the lack of recognition of doctrines, whose adaptability and practical utility none can aver.

The reform of Continental tariffs in different countries has materially assisted the growth of commerce, which fact alone proves that further reform in tariffs, if adopted will undoubtedly increase the importance of international trade. The commercial policy of France has naturally produced a powerful effect on neighbouring countries. For instance, Holland which was under the protective regime until 1847 and when she followed England in repealing her corn laws, the progress was marvellous. The same was the case with Belgium when she introduced the same reform in 1850 and 1852 in reducing different duties and allowing raw materials to be admitted free.

Another feature of the political development of Europe, that mainly assisted the advancement of commerce, was the widening of the areas to which the Customs systems applied. The most noteworthy instances, we have before us in this connection, are the German Customs Union, Establishment of Italian Unity and the treaties by Belgium with France in 1861, and with England in 1862.

Belgium, which is favoured by her geographical situation, is covered all over with navigable waterways measuring a total length of 2,205 kilometres and is overrun by rail roads to the extent of 6,555 kilometres. The country in respect of transportation stands far ahead of all others. Though Belgium was little known in the commercial countries of the globe half a century ago, she has succeeded now in attaining a unique position in the commercial world. The success thus achieved by this country is mainly due to her economical equipment and the activity in all grades and spheres of her population combined with the zeal and genius of her manufacturers.

The recent official returns issued by the Finance Minister show a considerable increase both in exports and imports. The general import trade of Belgium amounts to Francs 5,725,800,000 and the export trade amounts to Francs 5,062,700,000. These figures, compared with the figures of 1831,

when import trade amounted to only Francs 98,013,079 and export amounted to Francs 104,579,786, show clearly enough that the trade has undergone a considerable development, and the growth is noteworthy in the History of Commerce. If we compare the special trade of Belgium for the year 1901, with the trade of the other important countries in Europe and America, Belgium occupies the first rank with regard to the value for each thousand inhabitants, or the fifth rank with regard to the absolute value.

The Statistical Abstract published by the Board of Trade of Great Britain, the excerpts from which we give below, will be a sufficient indication of the above facts.

*Special Trade (Imports and Exports Combined) in 1901,
for the Principal Countries.*

Designation of the Countries.	1	Population. 2	Absolute value of the Special Trade in 1901 (Imports and Exports combined.) 3		Value of the Special Trade per thousand inhabi- tants. 5	Order of Importance.	
						According to the value per thousand inhabitants. 6	According to the absolute value. 7
Belgium	...	6,800,000 in 1901	frances 4,049,224,000	frances 4,049,224,000	frances 595 500	1	5
Switzerland	...	3,329,000 June 30th, 1901	frances 1,981,685,000	1,981,685,000	595,300	2	9
England	...	41,459,000 June 30th, 1901	pound sterling 859,851,000	21,938,588,000	529,200	3	1
Denmark	...	2,450,000 in 1901	crowns 689,035,000	957,070,000	390,600	4	12
Norway	...	2,253,000 June 30th, 1901	crowns 431,508,000	599,365,000	266,000	5	13
Sweden	...	5,150,000 in 1901	crowns 813,171,000	1,129,495,000	218,300	6	11
France	...	38,962,000 in 1901	frances 8,382,100,000	8,382,100,000	215,100	7	4

Special Trade (Imports and Exports Combined) in 1901,
for the Principal Countries.—*ctd.*

1 Designation of the Countries.	2 Population.	3 Absolute value of the Special Trade in 1901 (Imports and Exports combined.)	4 Value of the Special Trade per thousand inhabi- tants.	Order of Importance.	
				According to the value per thousand inhabitants.	According to the absolute value.
			5	6	7
Germany (Zollverein) ...	57,086,000 June 30th, 1901	marks 9,852,600,000	213,200	8	2
United States of America.	77,647,000 June 1st, 1901	dollars 2,256,333,000	150,600	9	3
Portugal ...	5,061,000 in 1901	milreis 86,105,000	95,300	10	14
Italy ...	32,475,000 Feb. 10th, 1901	lires 3,092,947,000	95,200	11	8
Spain ...	18,608,000 in 1901	pesetas 1,665,764,000	89,500	12	10
Austria-Hungary ...	45,567,000 in 1900	crowns 3,538,099,000	81,500	13	6
Russia ...	135,000,000 in 1901	roubles 1,342,793,000	26,500	14	7

The trade of Belgium with the United Kingdom also is rapidly increasing like other countries. Below I give the details relating to the export and import trade with United Kingdom for the year 1905 and 1906 which will throw sufficient light on the important part Belgium plays in the commercial centres. Figures quoted below represent francs in thousands.

Imports to Belgium.	United Kingdom.	
	1905.	1906.
Animals : horses and foals	4'589	7'945
Arms	764	579
Beer	2'484	2'853
Wood :		
building woods other than oak and walnut	299	357
cabinet making woods other than oak and walnut	760	944
Candles	321	297
Cocoa beans, flakes and cocoa butter... ..	850	1'423
Coffee	6'875	3'791
Rubber	7'519	9'986
Coal and Coke	10'217	27'021
Preserved Foods	2'187	2'214
Cordage and String	216	272
Manufactured Salt... ..	720	625
Rags and Waste	4'825	6'300
Drugs	4'135	4'489
Groceries	420	426
Threads:		
Of Cotton... ..	22'802	26'627
Of Wool	8'560	9'935
Of Flax or other vegetable filaments not specially taxed	8'900	7'679
Fruit	1'705	1'505
Grain and grainstuffs	2'812	1'300
Clothing, underlinen, etc.	5'709	6'021
Vegetable Oils	6'444	7'034
Alcoholic liquids, Brandies and Liqueurs	636	492

Imports to Belgium.	United Kingdom.	
	1905.	1906.
Machines :		
Tools	195	201
Railways coaches and tramcars ...	516	1'357
Machines and mechanisms not specially described	28'902	32'484
Fats	3'606	5'158
Others	3'228	3'107
Raw material, not specially taxed :		
Rough-cut diamonds, unmounted ...	93'070	93'339
Not described	12'461	16'099
Raw materials (textile):		
Hemp and Linen	5'315	5'865
Cotton	14'884	20'835
Wool	84'609	91'806
Silk	723	1'392
Not described	6'193	9'366
Haberdashery	4'420	5'827
Aluminium	710	18
Silver Jewellery and Goldsmiths' work.	1'429	993
Copper	7'751	13'164
Tin	853	1'178
Iron and Steel	12'665	26'811
Gold Jewellery and Goldsmiths' work..	1'255	1'455
Lead	483	374
Zinc	87	236
Furniture	757	998
Steamers and boats	226	582
Works of art and articles for collection.	2'647	2'194
Paper	1'297	1'554
Hides :		
Raw	11'258	14'721
Tanned and manufactured	12'267	10'803
... ..	2'211	2'693
Fish	8'403	8'590
Pottery, earthenware, china (<i>exclusive of tiles and similar squares</i>)	1'076	1'099

Imports to Belgium.	United Kingdom.	
	1905.	1906.
Products :		
Chemicals	4·065	4·651
Printed matter	1·358	1·475
Resine and bitumen not described ...	39·082	37·178
Soap	1·322	331
Sugar :		
Syrups and molasses, made from manufactured or refined sugar ...	36	21
Raw and refined... ..	573	573
Tobbaco	1·573	1·304
Dyes and paints :		
Natural and artificial indigo	158	172
Other kinds	6·857	6·857
Tea	710	793
Tissues :		
Of cotton	31·863	36·615
Of linen, hemp and jute	19·950	19·950
Of silk	810	832
All kinds of oil cloth	2·256	2·256
Plaited Straw	2·912	3·453
Not specially taxed	1·301	1·456
Seeds	3·081	4·323
Oilcakes	1·387	1·828
Not described	1·366	1·612
Meat	1·725	1·403
Vehicles, except railway carriages or tramcars	1·482	2·182
Other articles	—	—
TOTAL	5637·59	662·005

Exports from Belgium.	United Kingdom.	
	1905.	1906.
Starch... ..	3·487	3·205
Horses and foals	368	406
Arms	1·033	821
Salted fresh butter	4·198	9·892
Wood :		
various	531	482
worked	5·583	6·447
Candles	832	454
Rubber	6·762	7·890
Coal of all kinds	1·768	1·372
Preserved foods	4·652	9·456
And string	2·637	3·155
Vegetables, chicory (<i>green dried roots</i>).	736	628
„ Potatoes	324	456
„ not described	660	1·051
Poultry eggs... ..	19·293	21·735
Rags and waste	4·457	4·472
Drugs	3·184	3·711
Manures	2·479	3·171
Threads :		
of cotton	1·584	2·771
of wool	33·631	56·550
of flax and their vegetable filament		
not specially taxed	27·996	40·036
of silk not prepared for retailing	2 316	3·180
ditto prepared for retailing	1·291	569
Fruit	4·339	7·446
Grains and their derivatives	384	756
Flour	9·606	3·479
Clothing, underclothing, etc.	9·170	13 256
Vegetable oils	5·505	6·397
Musical instruments	686	1·100
Liquids alcoholic.—Brandies and liquors	346	323
Railway, carriage of tramcars	9·604	3·420
Machines of mechanism not described..	24·777	29·182
Fats	2·771	2·920
others	4·166	5·689
Raw material (<i>animal</i>) not described	9·141	10·841
Wool	22·012	23·126

Exports from Belgium.	United Kingdom.	
	1905.	1906.
Linen	31'192	38'852
Silk	3'158	2'045
not described	1'363	2'376
Silver, ores, not worked nor in com. ...	1'998	2'447
Jewellery, goldsmiths' work	155	188
Copper	1'899	3'048
Tin	97	115
Iron and steel	90'338	87'525
Gold (<i>including platinum</i>) not worked nor in com. ...	14'511	5'263
Id. Jewellery and Gold- smiths' work ...	241	179
Lead	704	788
Zinc	23'240	37'121
Furniture	8'031	8'363
Watches and Watch-parts	1'397	1'683
Works of art and articles for collections	2'057	1'650
Paper	12'891	15'098
Hides :		
raw	8'027	8'227
tanned and manufactured	3'539	3'845
ouvrées	10'631	12'951
Stone :		
worked, polished or carved	2'533	3'563
others (not including Slates for roofs)	2'819	4'013
Pottery, earthenware, china	385	603
Gunpowder	450	458
Products :		
Chemicals	8'847	9'162
Various for industry	4'704	5'715
Printed matter	1'419	1'502
Crops and forage	132	193
Resine and bitumen not described ...	1'711	1'134
Sugar (raw and clarified)	22'692	25'459
Tobacco	1'481	1'581
Dyes and paints	8'583	5'576

Exports from Belgium.	United Kingdom.	
	1905.	1906.
Tissues :		
of cotton	44'576	60'240
of wool, cloth, cashmere and similar stuffs	2'766	1'017
of other kinds	17'933	18'468
of hiven, and jute	8'947	9'836
of silk	16'160	29'866
All kinds of oil cloth	1'365	1'011
Plaited straw, etc.	2'008	3'526
not described	1'137	1'009
Seeds	1'488	1'670
Hops	1'939	7'497
Growing plant and natural flowers not described	1'335	1'695
Exclusive of worked glass	543	580
Meat	38'333	38'188
Wine	14'149	15'155
Vehicles, except railway carriages and tramcars	899	732
Other articles	9'163	13'957

TOTAL	716'469	816'649

The modifications in European tariffs have directly assisted the growth of European trade all over the continent as will be seen from the above details. The new conventional tariff was speedily followed by several fresh treaties with important European countries, *viz.*, with Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Sweden and Norway in 1882 and with Servia in 1883. The Austro-French treaty of 1879 was continued and a convention on each side was

signed by England and France in 1882, while Germany continued to receive the same privilege as under the treaty of 1871.

Under the above mentioned treaties, the duties on whole or partially manufactured articles remained unchanged. The number of articles in the convention was reduced and all countries outside Europe coming under the general tariff the manufacturers were in no wise seriously affected.

As a matter of fact Belgium and Holland adhered to the system of moderate duties. Next to England, they may claim a place as free-trading countries.

The growth of Indian trade with Belgium, both in Imports and Exports, during the last ten years, has brought India in close touch with this, one of the most important commercial countries in Europe. The Indian trade with Belgium would have risen still more but for a want of business-like capacity among Indian traders to a certain extent, as also a partial neglect of Belgian manufacturers and agents to develop trade with India ; the development of Indian trade with Belgium has not yet reached its perfection.

The lovers of peace have, it seems, forgotten that the creation of a thorough commercial intercourse tends to the reduction of the chances of war in future. Any country, for instance, that resorts to an exporting medium, the merchants and the producers

from whom the goods are obtained have a very strong material interest in the preservation of peace. The country that supplies food to another would suffer by the least check to the trade. The extension of international trade gives a sufficient guarantee for the maintenance of peace. It is the first duty, therefore, of the rulers of a country to encourage the growth of international trade whether the rulers are directly benefited thereby or not.

Turning to the Indian trade with Belgium which is in no way less important than with the other countries in Europe, and as my chief object is to place before my Indian readers all the details of Indian trade with Belgium, I give below the detailed statement regarding the imports and exports published by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, India, in his annual publication for the year 1907.

IMPORTS.

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.
I.—Animals, living No.	.....	4	Rs.	Rs.
II.—Articles of Food and Drink—				
Liquors—				
Ale, beer, and porter gals.	56,384	49,243	104,598	81,732
Cider and other fermented liquors... „	.....	6	.....	17
Spirit—				
Brandy	3,166	3,178	17,263	13,874
Gin	4,160	3,426	11,171	9,132
Liqueurs	161	114	2,891	1,853
Spirit used in drugs, medicines, or chemicals	1,479	2,602	40,525	49,160
Spirit, perfumed	5,308	3,953	1,13,129	90,109
Other sorts of spirit	1,337	327	4,300	2,184
Total Spirit	15,611	13,600	1,89,279	1,66,322

IMPORTS—(continued).

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.
II.—Articles of Food and Drink— <i>contd.</i>				
Liquors— <i>contd.</i>				
Wines—				
Champagne	10,072	7,819	Rs. 3,00,065	Rs. 2,31,708
Other sorts	3,905	3,853	40,337	33,578
Total Wines	13,977	11,672	3,40,402	2,65,286
Total Liquors	85,972	74,521	6,34,279	5,13,357
Provisions—				
Canned and bottled provisions (a) cwt.	688	802	21,054	17,734
Cheese	75,785	87,843	40,283	46,484
Farinaceous food	385	301	29,177	20,753
Milk, condensed and pre-served	1,254,208	941,902	3,71,061	2,90,123
Other sorts of provisions... ..	.....	.....	35,053	23,103
Total value of provisions ... ..	.....	.....	4,96,628	3,98,197

IMPORTS—(continued).

Articles.	Quantity		Value.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.
III.—Metals and manufactures of— <i>contd.</i>				
B.—Metals— <i>contd.</i>				
Copper—				
Unwrought cwt.	.....	.....	Rs.	Rs.
Wrought—				
Braziers and sheets	4,541	4,562	2,73,288	3,55,211
Lametta ... ..	.....	10	.....	1,902
Mixed or yellow metal, for sheathing	1,402	85	63,127	5,816
Other manufactures	1,386	1,211	92,682	96,651
Total Copper	7,329	5,868	4,29,097	4,59,580
German-silver	384	1,231	30,986	1,23,777
Iron—				
Cast (pig)	10	16	30	89
Wrought—				
Angle, bolt, and rod	74,177	35,655	3,69,717	1,89,504
Bar	492,122	368,936	22,22,293	19,09,310
Beams, pillars, girders, and bridge-work	24,111	6,041	1,28,008	35,268

Bolts and nuts (✓)	...	...	...	17,360	28,439	1,92,541	3,21,100
Hoop ...	...	...	...	26,742	16,171	1,70,757	1,05,803
Nails, screws, rivets, and washers.	...	...	...	96,621	88,492	8,44,466	8,45,239
Pipes and tubes	...	...	...	9,995	37,595	1,03,018	3,78,972
Rice bowls	...	...	...	1,684	1,048	15,280	9,061
Sheets and plates—							
Galvanised	...	...	...	5,757	9,763	48,528	92,278
Tinned	...	...	...	.....	.....	...	...
Not galvanised or tinned	...	...	...	62,985	53,293	3,44,091	3,13,817
Wire	...	...	...	26,045	34,513	2,22,648	3,19,563
Other manufactures of iron, or of iron mixed with steel	...	...	...	26,949	28,689	1,78,268	1,92,583
Lead—							
Total Iron...	...	...	...	864,558	708,651	48,39,645	47,12,587
Ore	...	...	...	2,432	2,059	33,850	29,702
Wrought	...	...	...	799	31	10,531	550
Total Lead	...	...	...	3,231	2,090	44,381	30,252
Steel—							
Angle, channel, and spring...	...	...	...	195,581	128,310	9,94,329	6,74,108
Bars	...	...	...	1,633,528	1,135,309	77,77,326	58,58,904
Beams, pillars, girders, and bridge-work	...	...	...	566,959	492,748	25,77,111	22,83,345
Cast	...	...	...	18,693	7,024	1,12,837	73,661
Hoop	...	...	...	40,275	16,416	2,14,035	99,990
Plates and sheets	...	...	...	384,746	300,590	21,18,850	17,78,170
Other sorts	...	...	...	179,584	394,109	9,00,287	20,66,814
Total Steel	...	...	...	3,019,366	2,474,506	1,46,94,775	1,28,34,992

IMPORTS—(continued).

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.
III—Metals and manufactures of— <i>contd.</i>				
B.—Metal— <i>contd.</i>				
Zinc or spelter—				
Unwrought	211	193	Rs. 4,123	Rs. 3,870
Wrought or Manufactured ...	12,537	15,882	2,82,453	3,92,666
Other sorts	1	459	38	10,935
Total Zinc or spelter ...	12,749	16,534	2,86,614	4,07,471
Others	50	156	5,608	22,289
Total Metals	3,908,463	3,210,016	2,03,80,145	1,86,59,578
C.—Machinery and mill work—				
Steam-engines and Parts—				
Locomotive (excluding those for				
railways) ... ..	.....	.....	...	11,615
Other sorts ... ..	.....	.....	71,960	1,31,226
Not steam-engines—				
Electrical (a) ... ..	.....	.....	51,243	90,140
Textile (a) ... ..	.....	.....	32,474	11,447
Other descriptions ...	.....	.....	1,90,289	92,160
Total Machinery and mill work ...	.....	.....	3,45,966	3,36,588

D.—Railway plant and rolling-stock—	.....	.....	1,14,057	5,72,068
Carriages and trucks and parts thereof ... ..	.....	.....	125	...
Locomotive engines and tenders and parts thereof ... ..	.....	.....
Materials for constructions—				
Rails and fishplates of steel and iron	39,149	91,166	1,87,690	4,18,216
Sleepers and keys of steel and iron. ... ..	.....	4,450	...	30,957
Other sorts	446	1,241	9,371	12,727
Total Railway plant and rolling-stock... ..	.....	.....	3,11,243	10,33,968
Total value of Metals and manufactures of... ..	.....	.....	2,23,14,101	2,15,80,903
IV.—Chemicals, Drugs, Medicines and Narcotics, Dyeing and Tanning Materials—				
Chemicals—				
Bleaching materials	4,409	8,180	25,004	41,974
Calcium carbide	1,661	1,034	21,829	13,736
Sulphuric acid	1,600	1,169	16,081	11,448
Other sorts ... ..	.....	.....	2,97,991	2,71,693
Total Chemicals... ..	.....	.....	3,60,905	3,38,851

IMPORTS—(continued).

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.
IV.—Chemicals, Drugs, etc.— <i>contd.</i>				
Drugs, Medicines, and Narcotics—			Rs.	Rs.
Proprietary and patent Medi-				
cines (a) ... ..	.....	.....	30,337	73,206
Quinine	8,103	6,177	53,107	45,045
Other sorts of drugs and medicines, value	.....	.....	52,917	71,225
Opium	6	2	110	54
Tobacco—				
Unmanufactured	59,235	32,708	1,01,646	24,165
Manufactured—				
Cigars	37,351	38,420	1,02,851	1,16,660
Other sorts	6,645	8,402	3,597	6,277
Total Drugs, Medicines, and Narcotics ... ..	...	...	3,44,565	3,36,632
Dyeing and Tanning materials—				
Alizarine dyes	4,132,318	5,114,744	22,04,254	25,48,863
Aniline "	3,197,978	4,379,355	26,10,326	34,80,746

Other sorts ...	...	...	...	2,815	4,372	1,63,050	2,36,627
Total Dyeing and Tanning materials ...	...	...	...	—	—	49,77,630	62,66,236
Total value of Chemicals, Drugs, Medicines and Narcotics, Dyeing, and Tanning materials ...	...	...	...	—	—	56,83,100	69,41,719
V.—Oils—							
Mineral—							
Lubricating oils (a) ...	...	...	...	143,589	3,217	64,806	2,763
Other kinds ...	...	...	...	674	62	1,000	127
Other sorts ...	...	...	...	301	260	2,075	1,113
Total Oils ...	...	...	...	144,564	3,539	67,881	4,003
VI.—Raw materials and unmanufactured articles—							
Cotton ...	...	...	...	.....	2	1	25
Ivory ...	...	...	...	9,803	.....	60,522	.....
Jewellery—							
Precious stones and pearls, unset... value.	...	...	...	—	—	85,605	58,475
Stone and Marble ...	...	...	...	4,990	3,171	24,442	18,042
Tallow ...	...	...	...	7,848	6,288	2,19,704	1,92,649
Articles not enumerated ...	...	...	...	—	—	32,048	12,389
Total value of Raw materials and unmanufactured articles ...	...	...	...	—	—	4,22,322	2,81,580

IMPORTS—(continued).

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.
VII.—Articles manufactured and partly manufactured—				
A.—Yarns and textile fabrics—				
Cotton—				
Twist and yarn lb.	696,960	638,477	5,08,166	5,38,031
Piece-goods—				
Grey (unbleached) yards.	53,542	120,175	9,567	25,338
White (bleached) "	1,843,613	1,569,042	4,09,931	3,57,447
Coloured, printed, or dyed "	4,938,507	3,285,970	18,72,860	13,70,222
Handkerchiefs and shawls in the piece no.	48,874	16,689	28,197	15,923
Hosiery, pure and mixed value.	—	—	4,11,180	2,90,981
Thread, sewing lb.	68,494	72,508	88,579	88,664
Other sorts of manufactures "	4,495,132	2,953,189	20,76,196	13,87,334
Total Cotton (excluding twist and yarn) value.	—	—	48,96,510	35,35,909

IMPORTS—(continued).

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Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.
VII.—Articles manufactured and partly manufactured— <i>continued</i> .				
B.—Apparel—				
Apparel (including drapery, uniforms, accoutrements, boots and shoes, but excluding hosiery) ... value	—	—	55,018	60,850
Gold and silver thread (a) ... "	—	—	2,744	367
Haberdashery and millinery (a)... "	—	—	1,34,002	1,78,144
Hats, caps, bonnets, and hatter's ware (a) ... "	—	—	4,067	1,920
Total Apparel ... "	—	—	1,95,831	2,41,281
C.—Other articles—				
Arms, ammunition, and military stores—				
Firearms, and parts thereof ... "	—	—	14,465	7,999
Dynamite, and all other explosives ... cwt
Other sorts ... value	—	—	7,137	5,737
Total Arms, ammunition, and military stores ... "	—	—	21,602	13,736

Art, works of ...	...	...	...	7,915	43,507
Books and printed matter (including maps and charts) ...	...	...	...	3,649	10,697
Building and engineering materials—	38	435			
Bricks and tiles ...	229,241	241,591		38,926	52,743
Cement ...	264,287	167,948		3,90,013	2,39,917
Other sorts ...	...	...		32,625	35,180
Total Building and engineering materials ...	...	...		4,61,564	3,27,840
Cabinet-ware and furniture ...	...	...		17,650	35,113
Candles... ..	705,526	641,536		2,12,047	2,00,051
Caoutchouc ...	...	...		6,531	11,316
Carriages and carts (excluding railway carriages), and parts thereof—					
Carriages and carts... ..	...	...		2,28,405	3,17,020
Cycles (a) ...	...	...		6,505	2,021
Motor cars and motor cycles (a)... ..	...	...		3,06,157	5,78,424
Total Carriages and carts (excluding railway carriages), and parts thereof ...	...	...		5,41,067	8,97,465
Clocks and Watches ...	2,252	2,263		6,796	7,463
Cordage and rope of vegetable fibre (excluding jute) ...	222	283		9,342	10,616
Earthenware and Porcelain ...	...	...		5,30,663	5,26,904
Fireworks ...	...	...		13,476	786

IMPORTS—(continued.)

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.
VII.—Articles manufactured and partly manufactured— <i>continued</i> .				
C.—Other articles— <i>continued</i> .				
Glass and Glassware—				
Beads and false pearls ...	1,267	1,131	1,18,227	1,28,128
Lampware (a) ...	...	...	77,488	84,409
Sheet and plate ...	15,999,155	12,524,156	12,13,648	8,89,102
Other ware (including bottles, com- mon) ...	...	...	6,74,093	6,38,714
Total Glass and Glassware ...	...	...	20,83,456	17,40,353
Hides and Skins—				
Skins, dressed or tanned ...	31	82	13,563	36,426
Instruments, Apparatus, and Appli- ances, and parts thereof—	3,272	6,897		
Electrical (a) ...	...	...	1,16,246	2,54,007
Musical ...	...	...	65,917	57,714
Optical (a) ...	...	...	5,882	14,208
Photographic ...	...	...	5,455	4,047
Scientific, philosophical, and other kinds ...	...	...	85,552	45,865

Surgical (a)	...	...	...	...	...	218	212
Typewriters	...	...	...	...	no.	200	873
Total Instruments, Apparatus, and Appliances and parts thereof	...	...	...	...	...	2,79,470	3,76,926
Ivory	...	...	...	...	...	67,241	173
Jewellery, also plate of gold and silver—	...	...	...	...	...	9,520	4,371
Jewellery	...	...	...	...	...	20	683
Plate	...	...	...	...	...
Total Jewellery, also plate of gold and silver	...	...	...	...	...	9,540	5,054
Leather, and manufactures (excluding boots and shoes)	...	...	...	...	...	11,561	3,812
Matches	...	...	...	...	...	9,64,240	7,15,544
Oil-cloth and floor-cloth	...	...	...	...	...sq. yds.	3,003	4,282
Paints and Colours	...	...	...	...	cwt.	4,44,572	5,06,958
Painters' materials	...	...	...	...	... value	75,069	70,463
Total Paints and Colours	...	...	...	...	...	5,19,641	5,77,421
Paper and Pasteboard—	...	...	...	...	...	88,571	1,64,235
Printing paper	...	...	...	...	cwt.	1,49,840	2,19,425
Writing paper and envelopes.	...	...	...	...	... value	2,34,040	2,28,786
Other kinds of paper	...	...	...	...	cwt.		
Pasteboard, millboard, and cardboard of all kinds	...	...	...	...	...	44,558	54,192
Total Paper and Pasteboard	...	...	...	...	... value	5,17,009	6,66,638

IMPORTS—(continued.)

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.
VII.—Articles manufactured and partly manufactured— <i>concluded</i> .				
C.—Other articles— <i>concluded</i> .				
Printing and lithographing materials (other than paper) value.	...	...	24,732	14,109
Soap cwt.	330	608	15,043	23,499
Stationery (excluding paper) value	...	...	2,27,120	1,60,964
Toys and requisites for games ... .. "	...	...	2,12,024	2,26,907
Umbrella fittings (a) ... .. "	...	...	2,20,501	3,93,341
Articles (not specified) imported by post ... .. "	...	...	33	2,326
Articles not enumerated ... .. "	...	...	2,02,984	1,55,645
Total value of Other articles ... .. "	...	...	72,03,463	71,88,914
Total value of Articles manufactured and partly manufactured ... .. "	...	...	1,41,02,017	1,28,24,557
Grand Total ... .. "	...	...	4,47,60,038	4,35,53,919

EXPORTS.

I.—Animals, living	...	...	no.	...	10	.....	30
II.—Articles of food and drink—							
Coffee	...	...	cwt.	5,097	9,012	2,07,368	3,52,811
Fruits and Vegetables...	...	...	value	...	...	42,036	55,624
Grain and pulse—							
Rice not in the husk...	...	...	cwt.	7,25,215	641,284	25,94,677	26,54,465
Wheat	...	...	"	1,130,644	790,774	51,38,000	35,56,827
Other sorts	...	...	"	159,615	45,927	5,56,050	1,48,594
Total Grain and Pulse	...	...	"	2,015,474	1,477,985	82,88,727	63,59,886
Provisions	...	...	"	982	820	3,525	13,291
Spices	...	...	lb.	7,27,720	3,75,200	2,51,173	1,30,400
Tea, black	...	...	"	69,627	57,428	30,110	23,487
Tea waste, for the manufacture of caffeine	...	...	"	52,140	55,481	3,040	3,816
Total value of articles of Food and Drink...	...	...	value	...	...	88,25,979	69,39,315
III.—Metals and manufactures of—							
B.—Metals—							
Manganese ore	...	...	cwt.	1,082,020	1,971,614	7,73,015	16,46,759
Others	...	...	"	...	1,802	.....	3,746
Total Metals...	...	...	"	1,082,020	1,973,416	7,73,015	16,50,505

EXPORTS—(continued.)

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.
III.—Metals and manufactures of— <i>continued.</i>				
B.—Metals— <i>continued.</i>				
Other articles ... ..	...	...	3,671	375
Total value of Metals and manufactures ... ..	...	...	7,76,686	16,50,880
IV.—Chemicals, Drugs, Medicines and Narcotics, Dyeing and Tanning Materials—				
Drugs, Medicines, and Narcotics—				
Drugs and Medicines ... ..	...	...	21,471	10,392
Tobacco	202,306	332,236	11,516	17,985
Dyeing and Tanning Materials—				
Cutch	703	1,008	12,083	16,414
Indigo	346	162	75,022	39,892
Myrabolams	205,682	200,729	7,91,417	7,38,816
Other Sorts	1,218	250	9,200	1,750
Total Dyeing and Tanning materials. , ,	207,949	202,149	8,87,722	7,06,872

Total value of Chemicals, Drugs,
Medicines and Narcotics, Dyeing
and Tanning Materials value

V.—Oils

gal.
cwt.

VI.—Raw materials and unmanufactured
articles—

cwt.

Bristles and fibre for Brushes and
brooms
Coir
Cotton
Fodder, bran, and cattle-food, inclu-
ding hay and straw
Gums and Resins
Hemp—(chiefly *sann*)
Hides and Skins—

cwt
=no.

Hides
Skins—

cwt.
=no.

Goat Skins

cwt.
=no.

Sheep Skins

cwt.
=no.

Other Skins

cwt.
=no.

Total Hides and Skins

8,25,249

9,20,709

96,858

1,19,905

2,56,683

2,68,063

12,171

3,349

3,13,48,818

3,08,42,637

78,208

1,43,472

50,910

81,287

14,33,067

12,40,237

.....

.....

4,00,550

7,65,840

3,49,994

4,49,075

23,300

8,350

...

18,650

7,73,844

12,41,915

11,708

=314,556

EXPORTS—(continued.)

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Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.
VI.—Raw materials and unmanufactured articles— <i>continued.</i>			Rs.	Rs.
Horn and Hornmeal cwt.	6,741	10,093	1,48,672	2,16,315
Jewellery—				
Precious stones and pearls unset ... value	...	...	4,150	4,430
Jute cwt.	104,413	120,081	12,49,585	22,24,642
Manures—				
Animal bones tons	12,355	14,614	6,74,532	8,21,090
Oilcake (manure) "	462	96	32,577	5,736
Other kinds "	...	10	...	810
Total manures "	12,817	14,720	7,07,109	8,27,666
Mica cwt.	2,508	235	1,04,070	18,800
Rags and other materials for making paper "	...	864	...	5,429
Seeds—				
Castor "	185,568	198,786	10,63,836	15,43,985
Groundnuts "	16,674	28,666	1,20,718	2,12,817
Linseed "	469,918	317,852	33,57,701	23,94,850

Mustard ...	...	...	17,577	15,129	1,60,271	1,82,408
Poppy ...	...	...	389,718	326,038	28,45,128	26,59,472
Rape ...	...	...	609,205	1,201,627	38,53,433	81,76,232
Sesamum (til or jinjili) ..	...	...	587,757	862,117	52,78,757	80,75,658
Other Sorts ...	...	...	39,419	25,667	1,93,663	1,34,402
Total Seeds ...	...	...	2,315,836	2,975,881	1,68,73,507	2,33,79,824
Silk ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tallow ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wax (excluding candles) ...	...	...	988	322	65,689	9,269
Wood—						
Teak ...	...	...	123	552	21,528	80,214
Ornamental ...	...	...	...	...	...	4,400
Wool ...	...	...	237,216	85,580	1,31,100	52,819
Articles not enumerated ...	...	...	...	...	43,246	44,785
Total value of raw materials and unmanufactured articles ...	...	...	...	...	5,31,69,616	6,08,22,294
VII.—Articles manufactured and partly manufactured—						
A—Yarns and textile fabrics—						
Cotton ...	...	...	...	...	97,785	23,501

EXPORTS—(continued).

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.
VII.—Articles manufactured and partly manufactured— <i>continued</i> .				
A.—Yarns and Textile fabrics— <i>continued</i> .				
Jute—				
Gunny bags...	1,160,100	3,728,150	3,31,101	9,27,158
" cloth ...	50,000	222,000	6,800	28,652
Other kinds...	...	...	34,882	5,180
Total Jute...	...	...	3,72,783	9,60,990
Wool ...	...	...	649	19,413
Other articles	...	...	3,000	1,462
Total value of Yarns and textile fabrics	...	...	4,74,217	10,05,366
B—Apparel ...	...	...	370	7,875
C.—Other articles—				
Cabinet ware and furniture	...	...	1,050	299
Coir (excluding rope)	52,523	46,127	5,22,805	4,64,914

Hides and Skins—											
Skins, dressed or tanned—											
Goat skins ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sheep skins...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Skins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lac—											
Button	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Lac	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paint and Colours...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Articles not enumerated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total value of other articles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total value of articles manu- factured and partly manu- factured	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

554	396	1,11,693	88,900
= 68,420	51,200	6,854	16,660
36	85		
=4,948	16,800		
590	481	1,18,547	1,05,560
=73,368	=68,000		
...
390	170	41,750	22,800
390	170	41,750	22,800
...	...	30,010	30,005
...	...	3,015	6,691
...	...	7,17,177	6,30,269
...	...		
...	...	11,91,764	16,43,510
...	...	6,50,04,659	7,19,78,136

The object of these tables is to give a clear idea of the export and import trade of India in general and Belgium in particular.

India's Imports.

Imports.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.
	£	£	£
Cotton woven goods ...	23,706,000	26,012,000	25,130,000
Cotton yarns	1,658,000	2,284,000	2,149,000
Silk, raw and manufactured	1,902,000	1,742,000	1,595,000
Woollen goods	2,051,000	1,617,000	1,368,000
Metals	6,213,000	6,028,000	6,693,000
Hardware and cutlery ..	1,486,000	1,417,000	1,675,000
Machinery and mill work	2,685,000	3,283,000	3,860,000
Railway material ...	940,000	1,082,000	2,772,000
Liquors	1,249,000	1,345,000	1,238,000
Provisions	1,441,000	1,590,000	1,616,000
Sugar	4,602,000	5,183,000	5,825,000
Mineral oils	2,217,000	1,491,000	1,618,000
Chemicals, medicines, dyes	1,498,000	1,541,000	1,610,000
Apparel	1,493,000	1,478,000	1,408,000

India's Exports.

Exports of Indian Produce.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.
	£	£	£
Raw cotton	11,623,000	14,228,000	14,652,000
Cotton yarns	6,544,000	8,258,000	6,931,000
Cotton piece-goods ...	1,218,000	1,359,000	1,181,000
Raw jute	7,977,000	11,417,000	17,892,000
Jute manufactures ...	6,624,000	8,296,000	10,456,000
Wool, raw	1,261,000	1,410,000	1,618,000
Rice and rice flour ...	13,080,000	12,425,000	12,353,000
Wheat and wheat flour...	12,399,000	6,115,000	5,227,000
Oil seeds	9,607,000	7,073,000	8,681,000
Tea	5,644,000	5,898,000	6,572,000
Coffee	1,107,000	1,171,000	664,000
Opium	7,082,000	6,315,000	6,205,000
Indigo	556,000	391,000	467,000
Hides and skins... ..	6,604,000	9,171,000	10,230,000
Lac	1,988,000	2,068,000	2,247,000

India's Imports from European Countries.

—				1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.
				£	£	£
United Kingdom	...	...	...	70,784,000	72,569,000	79,812,000
Germany	...	...	...	12,026,000	12,742,000	16,586,000
United States	...	...	...	7,478,000	10,181,000	12,131,000
France	...	...	...	7,576,000	7,536,000	8,108,000
Belgium	...	...	...	7,946,000	7,324,000	7,680,000
Straits Settlements	...	...	...	6,340,000	5,976,000	6,280,000
Austria-Hungary	...	...	...	5,804,000	5,948,000	8,194,000
Italy	...	...	...	3,695,000	3,966,000	4,546,000
Russia	...	...	...	1,504,000	583,000	574,000

Value of the Total Imports of merchandise from foreign countries into British India in the official years 1905-06 and 1906-07.

Foreign Countries.				1905-06.	1906-07.
				Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	...	...	...	68,73,88,069	72,29,79,669
Belgium	...	...	...	4,47,60,038	4,35,53,919
Germany	...	...	...	4,37,25,596	5,79,08,707
Austria-Hungary	...	...	...	4,10,75,335	3,06,84,829
France	...	...	...	1,72,87,871	1,46,27,335
Italy	...	...	...	1,20,34,419	1,08,10,915
United States	...	...	...	2,24,25,650	2,54,70,558
Russia	...	...	...	28,29,955	10,76,508
Sweden	...	...	...	17,29,363	22,28,882
Norway	...	...	...	9,63,369	11,41,928
Spain	...	...	...	10,77,377	9,51,964
Portugal	...	...	...	47,647	1,84,013

Value of the Total Exports of merchandise to foreign countries from British India in the official years 1905-06 and 1906-07.

Foreign Countries.	1905-06.	1906-07.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	39,99,75,820	46,93,42,662
Belgium	6,50,04,659	7,19,78,136
Germany	14,69,78,649	19,72,45,840
Austria-Hungary ...	4,79,12,870	6,01,84,421
France	9,53,98,096	11,20,50,684
Italy... ..	4,68,96,696	5,70,54,108
United States	13,00,81,951	15,62,36,018
Russia	58,53,116	74,15,137
Sweden	17,94,568	22,88,356
Norway	21,003	44,347
Spain	1,53,51,409	1,58,26,557
Portugal	1,61,355	1,41,950

To make matters more clear, the following table giving value of annual average of merchandise imported into British India from each foreign country will show that Belgium ranks first in the progress of trade with India among all the countries in Europe and America.

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	1880.	1885.	1890.	1895.	1900.	1905.
Belgium... ..	Rs. 4,522	Rs. 10,10,238	Rs. 45,87,468	Rs. 1,57,33,161	Rs. 2,30,75,981	Rs. 3,11,55,680
United Kingdom ...	32,36,81,806	43,44,50,140	51,04,74,402	52,62,44,960	51,96,25,046	60,86,79,260
Austria-Hungary ...	10,69,446	33,38,802	68,39,178	1,05,39,930	1,95,45,417	3,17,91,770
France	45,26,808	62,78,310	83,33,896	97,93,662	96,80,420	1,46,60,772
Germany	3,51,984	9,05,658	25,74,046	1,62,33,082	2,10,18,907	2,96,22,445
Russia	25,640	2,25,465	37,54,694	1,14,94,789	2,08,44,753	2,57,99,911
Italy	38,53,882	49,68,834	44,53,258	43,51,705	53,83,873	96,71,985
United States ...	30,57,282	71,43,008	1,16,12,798	1,39,59,111	1,38,62,668	1,34,49,913

17/11/2014

CHAPTER III.

INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES.

In the interesting report by the Commission appointed to examine the causes of the "Depression of Trade," issued over the signature of Mr. Fane, Secretary of the British Legation, at Brussels, it is mentioned that "the state of things in Belgium has been very carefully examined by several competent enquirers. The commercial state of Belgium resembles that of Great Britain. In several respects Belgium has a highly developed system of agriculture, productive coal-fields, great manufacturing industries and a very complete system of Railways."

The independent testimony regarding the industrial and manufacturing activities of Belgium as mentioned above requires no comments, yet it will not be out of place to mention here that Belgium has proportionately a very large trade like Great Britain. Her institutions are exactly similar to those of Great Britain. Besides she has a moderate tariff as stated in the preceding chapter, and she has remained true to the principles of Free Trade.

Belgium occupies the foremost rank from the point of her industrial activities,¹ as her industries

¹ *Vide* Tables, Chap. II.

extend to all kinds of manufactures such as glass, wool, cotton, paper, lace, candle, cement, railway plants and tools, sugar refineries, diamonds, tanning, fire-arms, and several others, too numerous to be mentioned here, besides the exploitation and successful working of iron, steel, coal, stone, zinc and other minerals.

The commercial prosperity and advancement of the Belgian trade are in no small measure due to the adoption of the principles of Free Trade and the great assistance the Government themselves render directly and indirectly to extend the trade throughout, in addition to holding out all possible facilities tending to the introduction of their products far and wide into the various consuming centres of the world. As a matter of fact, Belgian manufacturers are not less industrious or unwilling to enter into an open and lively competition in the trade marts than British, German, Austrian, Italian or American makers. They have made rapid strides by their proverbial activity and amply show what they are capable of doing for the development of their trade, leaving the establishment of direct trade relations throughout the world to capitalists with results equally successful.

The statement given in the preceding chapter of the articles imported to India from Belgium leaves no room for doubt that Belgian articles do find a ready

market in India, but the cause of the check of further development of Belgian trade with India is the non-existence of direct Belgian agencies in India. It is known to every person interested in commerce how the trade suffers when there are no direct agencies on spot. The trade, which is carried out through foreign agencies, does not grow as rapidly as it would do, if left to the Belgians themselves for reasons more obvious than related. The Belgian trade in India is more or less in the hands of English, German or Austrian merchants, and unless Belgian traders come forth to handle the same, the growth of the Belgian trade is not expected to be as rapid as other nations, who are directly represented in India.

For the non-existence of Belgian firms in India, several important Belgian articles, which are likely to find a ready market in India, have yet remained unintroduced; besides several useful articles of Indian produce which will also find a ready market in Belgium have for the same reason been left out. In the interest of Belgian manufacturers and trade in general the times are most opportune for the responsible commercial authorities to consider the advisability of establishing some Belgian firms in India both for imports and exports.

We should not also lose sight of another important fact which will materially help the advancement of Belgian trade with India, *viz.*, the introduc-

tion of a direct line of steamers which is sure to help the growth of trade of these two important countries.

It is a matter of regret that space prevents my giving a detailed account of all the articles manufactured in Belgium, but I propose to deal only with some important ones, which interest Indian merchants in particular.

Cotton manufacturing industry.—Cotton spinning and weaving are chiefly carried on in Ghent, producing yarns up to No. 40.

• Amongst the weaving produce, grey and bleached calico, plain and twilled flannel, velvet, damask, blankets, bedticks and drills are the most important ones. Brussels is known for its beautiful printing work of cotton fabrics of all kinds ; as also of manufacturing fancy cotton checks.

• Cloth for trousers, waistcoats, ribbons, and tapestry are manufactured chiefly at Mouseron, Renaix, St. Nicolas, Hamme and Termonde.

• Belgium exports annually a large quantity of cotton manufactured articles to various countries including India, where they find a ready market.

As a matter of fact, the textile industry of Belgium dates from over twenty centuries. The Cotton spinning industry can be classed also among the ancient and important industries of Belgium. Several important works of cotton manufacture were established even prior to 1830. The raw material is

generally supplied by India, America, and Egypt. This raw stuff is classed according to Liverpool and Havre rules. All the various processes to which cotton has to be submitted before it can be delivered to the consumers are effected by the mechanical powers, and as Belgium manufacturers are always anxious to compete with other nations, they are always careful to see that no improvements escape their notice.

Warp and woof threads are both manufactured in Belgium. These threads are bleached, dyed, looped and twisted according to the requirements. The efforts of Belgian manufacturers to push their articles are very great, but it must be admitted here that the English system of pushing their articles in other markets is undoubtedly dominant over other countries in Europe.

Hemp, flax, and jute spinning are also carried on extensively in Belgium, and it goes to the credit of Belgium that these industries also maintain an enviable position over most of the foreign markets.

Woollen industry is said to be one of the most important industries in Europe. Belgium can well be proud of this important industry which adds considerably to her wealth. The town of Verviers has become the centre of woollen industry. The consumption of Belgian wool produce is chiefly shared by Germany, England, France, Austria,

Holland and United States. Carded and combed yarns are very largely exported to foreign countries.

It is to be noted that in Belgium, the waters of the rivers Vesdre and Holgne are specially suited for wool washing. The peculiarity of the water is that it thoroughly cleanses the raw materials and at the same time preserves the flexibility and elasticity of wool.

Cement.—The manufacture of cement is carried on successfully on a grand scale in Belgium, and she exports nearly two-thirds of her production to other countries. The Belgian cement works produce the best kinds of Portland cement, Roman cement and Slag cement.

There are about 30 factories of Natural, Portland and Roman cement and most of them are situated in the province of Hainant. The total annual production comes to nearly 800,000 tons.

Glass.—Belgium is noted for her glass work throughout the world. The flourishing condition of all the glass factories in Belgium proves beyond doubt that its development has reached its perfection. Glass of various kinds, such as plate glass, window glass, cut glass, bottle glass, is manufactured in Belgium, and these have a world-wide reputation. Among other countries, India is also an important consumer of Belgian glass.

The prominence enjoyed by Belgium in glass manufacture is rather due chiefly to the excellence

of raw materials produced in the country ; as also to the excellent organisation and equipment of the factories and the skill of the workmen.

From the official statistics of the year 1907, we find that Belgium has 69 glass works with 31,000 workmen working in the factories with machinery of 24,360 H. P. The value of the total output comes to nearly 102 million francs.

Metal Industries.—Belgium enjoys the first rank so far as the iron and steel industries are concerned. Various kinds of iron and steel articles are manufactured in Belgium. The smelted metals produced in the Blast-Furnaces of Hainault and Liege supply to a large extent the local demand for materials required for manufacture of iron articles. Iron and steel bars and sheets, girders, rails, nails, water pipes, machines and tools are the chief articles very largely exported.

The metal industry in Belgium is virtually confined to Liege and Charleroi districts, where Blast furnaces, rolling mills and several steel and iron factories are situated. There are several beds of iron ore in Belgium, but they are gradually exhausted and consequently iron ore from other countries will now find ready market there. The important castings produced are known as Thomas', Bessemer, forge pig, foundry goods, Martins and other special ones. It is worth noting here that

Belgium was the first country to introduce the methods of Bessemer and Martin.

The production of iron and steel is steadily increasing in Belgium, the average value from 1881 to 1890 comes to francs 392,506,000 and from 1891 to 1900 it amounted to francs 530,256,000 and thus the increase can well be noted. So far as the production of cast iron goes, Belgium occupies the seventh rank in the world as will be seen from the total out-put during 1906, which came to 1,376,000 tons, valued at about 100 million francs. In the same year the value of the total out-put of "finished iron" amounted to francs 55 millions, while the value of the production of "finished steel" amounted to 170 million francs. Statistical returns for the past ten years show that out of the total output of iron and steel, Belgium exported two-thirds of it to the British, Dutch and French markets, while Asia imported nearly one-sixth, and Africa about one-twentieth and the remainder was imported by Australasia. In the year 1903 China and Japan imported over 10 million francs worth of iron and steel from Belgium.

Belgium zinc trade occupies almost an important rank in the world's metal industries. In 1905 the value of the total output of zinc amounted to 99 million francs. There are 12 zinc works in Belgium and the raw material supplied to these works is imported mostly from other countries.

There are besides three zinc factories producing lead and silver.

Belgium also produces a considerable quantity of articles for the use of mines, gas engines, boilers, steam engines, oil engines, electric engines, machine tools, agricultural machinery, lifting machinery, bridges and iron frame work, railway and tramway plants, rolling stock, rolling mills, moulded steel, materials for naval constructions, fire-arms, cutlery and tools for carpentry.

Copper industry in Belgium has not also been ignored, as various articles are manufactured out of copper, such as telephone and telegraph wires and cables, laboratory articles, kitchen utensils, accessories for electrical plants, appliances for sugar factories and refineries, and distilleries. There are 42 nail factories in Belgium, which are being worked by hand power only. Besides there are 13 such factories worked by mechanical power. A large quantity of wire nails, bolts, nuts, rivets and screw-rings is annually produced. Moreover a large quantity of chains for shipping, railway and engineering purposes is also manufactured every year. As a matter of fact every chain is thoroughly tested before being delivered to the purchasers or their agents.

Belgium also can well compete so far as the manufacture of motors, motor cycles and other accessories is concerned. There are about 15

motor car factories in Belgium. Instead of electric motors, preference is being given now to oil motors, as electric motors are very heavy besides occupying too much time in recharging their accumulators. The number of annual sale of motor cars comes to nearly 2,000, while a large number, say about 20,000 motor cycles, is sold annually of Belgian make.

Belgium is noted for the manufacture of fire-arms as mentioned at the beginning of this chapter. The following table of the export of fire-arms during the year 1906 will prove the foremost rank she occupies in the manufacture of such complicated and delicate articles :—

Export of arms during 1906.				Value in francs.
Hunting and other kinds of fire-arms.				15,891,040.00
Muzzles, mortars, &c.	...	...	...	3,750,045.00
Pistols and revolvers	...	...	...	5,906,326.00
Military arms	...	...	...	844,668.00
Gun stocks	...	...	...	759,258.00
Side arms	...	...	...	69,164.00
Miscellaneous arms	...	...	...	413,087.00

Paper Industry.—Paper industry in Belgium is considered to be the oldest, as most of the paper mills were established some forty years ago. Papers of every description and cardboards are manufactured in these mills. All the materials required in the manufacture of paper are of local origin and labour being very cheap this article

stands any competition. Of Belgian-made papers, there is a large demand for printing paper, art paper, packing paper, tracing paper, grey and white cardboard and wall paper.

Electrical Industry.—The number of electrical machines offered to the market in 1906 comes to nearly 4,500. Every kind of article required for the electrical installation is manufactured in Belgium, such as accumulators, insulated wires and cables, dynamos, telephone apparatus, indicators, switchboards, interceptors, telegraph appliances, incandescent lamps, electric clocks, measuring instruments, &c. The total value of the output of Belgian electrical appliances comes to nearly 30 million francs.

Jewellery and precious stones.—Belgium maintains an equal rank among her artistic neighbours, and by the perseverance and perfection of her manufacturing skill she is thoroughly capable of offering her goods to several important markets abroad. Belgium is carrying on a very extensive and important trade in diamonds, and India shares a lion's portion of her trade in this precious article. It was in the year 1476 that Louis de Berquem invented the art of cutting and polishing diamonds. Subsequently Berquem settled at Antwerp where he carried his business on satisfactorily. Antwerp, which was known for her skill in cutting rubies, had also become mistress

of this art. A company was formed at Antwerp on a very extensive scale, and regular business was being done, but during the troubles of 16th century many of the best workmen left Antwerp and settled down at Amsterdam. Notwithstanding this sudden loss of the best workmen, Antwerp has up till now maintained intact her position in the diamond trade. Since the introduction of steam cutting of diamonds in 1840 the prosperity of the trade continued to increase year after year. Antwerp can very well boast of having brought to perfection the art of increasing the number of facettes which materially adds to the brilliancy of diamonds. A fairly large trade is also carried on in Rose-diamonds and Brilliants. The Belgium Rose-diamonds, which are known as Brabant Rose-diamonds, are generally given preference to the Dutch Rose-diamonds. There is yet a good field to develop this trade with India on an extensive basis if a proper organization existed to carry on business in this article.

Candle Manufacture.—This is an important item in the Belgian manufactures. The manufacture of candles has been going on since 1834. The progress made during a few years was simply remarkable. The principal towns for the manufacture of this article are Brussels and Antwerp. Nearly a quarter of the total produce is being exported chiefly to America, India, Japan, England and China.

Quarry and Stone Industry.—The growth of this industry in Belgium has added considerably to the commercial and industrial wealth of the country. The principal works are situated in the provinces of Hainant, Liege and Namur. There are about 1,650 quarries, and the value of the total production amounts to nearly 64 million francs. A large export trade is being carried on in white, black and red marble. Among other articles, sandstone, paving stone, granite, clay, tiles, white glass sand are making steady progress in the Continental markets.

Coal Industry.—The workable coal-field area in Belgium is about 1,400 square kilometres (one kilometre is equal to about $\frac{5}{8}$ of a mile). Anthracite coal is generally found in several mines situated in Charleroi and Basse Sambre. The coal dust is usually used in zinc factories while fine qualities are used in lime and cement factories. The lumps after being properly washed are used for the production of gas, and extra large lumps without dust are used for steam purposes. The coal found in Liege and Nons coal-fields is used for the production of coke. The value of coal produced annually comes to francs 353,471,700.

Enamelled ware.—Enamelled utensils for kitchen and other use are largely manufactured in Belgium. The Belgian makers of enamelled ware have obtained the first prize in all foreign exhibi-

tions for the excellent colour of enamel which more or less resembles fine Chinaware. The enamel used by the Belgian makers is of a very superior quality, which ensures the durability of the vessels and it does not crack easily. The Belgian enamelled articles in various beautiful colours and shades have attracted the attention of consumers in foreign countries where two-fifths of total produce is being exported.

There are nearly 26 large factories of enamelled ware in Belgium, in which over 30,000 tons of enamelled articles are made annually. Great care is always taken by the proprietors of these factories to make articles according to the taste and requirements of the consumers in different countries.

Chemical Industry.—The chemical productions in Belgium have long been known as an important branch of her manufacturing skill. Among the chemicals largely prepared and exported to other countries are nitric acid, sulphuric acid, sulphate of soda, carbonate of soda, chlorides of soda, chlorides of lime, nitrate of ammonia, red lead, white lead, alum, explosive powders, dynamite, &c.

There are over 150 factories manufacturing the above mentioned chemical articles, besides a large number of gas works to produce tar graphite and ammonia water, and several distilleries to produce methylated spirit, benzoës and acetate of lime and

soda, naphtha, petroleum, lubricating oil, glycerine, cocoa, butter, &c.

A large quantity of chemical products of Belgium is exported to different countries where they find a ready market. To give a rough idea of the large production of these articles, I may mention that the annual production of acids alone comes to nearly 400,000 tons.

Leather Goods.—The Belgian tanneries enjoy a universal appreciation for their skill in manufacturing leathers of various kinds, principal among them are patent leather calfskin, morocco leather, chamois leather, horse skin, &c.

There are about 500 tanneries in Belgium which work on modern methods and produce an extensive quantity every year, half of which is used for local consumption for making boots and shoes, harnesses and other articles and the remaining half is exported to other countries. Boots and shoes of Belgian make are highly approved of by foreign countries owing to their shape, well tanned leather and cheapness in price. Belgium-made-boots and shoes are not yet introduced in Indian markets, but I am quite sure if a trial is given the Indian merchants will find a ready sale for these articles.

CHAPTER IV.

THE PRINCIPAL PORTS, TRANSPORTS AND BANKS.

The authorities in Belgium have been taking all possible care to improve the sea ports and bring them up to the lines of first ranked model ports on the Continent. Antwerp is one of the most important ports in Europe. This port is divided into two parts; first, the docks on the right bank and secondly the eight basins to the North. The riverside harbour and the interior harbour include docks for both sea and river going vessels. There are 8 maritime docks to the North, 3 docks for river and canal boats to the South and also a special discharging berth for oil boats, and a separate dock from the interior of the country. The favourable situation and the splendid organization of the port of Antwerp show every year a remarkable increase in the number and tonnage of the vessels which frequent it. The situation occupied by this Belgian port, firstly as a midway station on the wide expanse of the ocean, and secondly as a gateway to the centre of Europe very well accounts for the position she enjoys as a third port in the whole world, being next only to London and New York. Her popularity is more or less due to her practical wharfage, measuring a draught of 27 feet at low tide, her

convenient sheds, her quays studded all along with cranes which procure cheap and rapid workmanship and her undisturbed and safe position, 51 miles away from the ocean which protects the vessels against storms and winds. In 1906 about 6,496 vessels with an aggregate registered tonnage of 10,865,448 entered the port of Antwerp, while in 1895, the figures were less by one half, and this alone proves the steady progress she has been making.

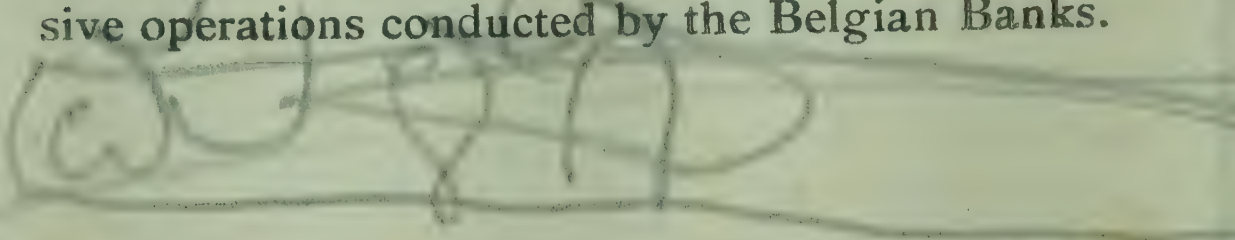
As mentioned above, the port of Antwerp is one of the most important ports in Europe not only on account of its being the principal maritime mart of Belgium, but also owing to the facilities of transport. Antwerp is in direct communication with London and other principal ports of America and Africa. Besides Antwerp, the other ports, *viz.*, Ostend, Bruges, Ghent, Nienport also show remarkable development during the last ten years. It will not be out of place to mention here that besides the public warehouses there are several private warehouses situated very close to the ports, which greatly facilitate the business, and the improvements, on quite modern basis, which the authorities have undertaken of late, will necessarily bring about a satisfactory result in the economical development of the country.

Banks.—The economic expansion of a country more or less depends upon its Banking operations

and its financial stability. I have spoken briefly in the first chapter about the satisfactory financial state of this Kingdom, and would now like to throw more light on the Banking business carried out in Belgium and abroad by the Belgians. There are more than 350 Banking houses in Belgium, out of which about 150 are Limited Companies under the State Act, and which alone are required to render official accounts of all the transactions entered into by them. According to the Brussels Stock Exchange Estimate, their nominal capital can be estimated at several million francs. As the local capital failed to find profitable returns at home, the capitalists were obliged to invest their capital in foreign enterprise, and it is most noteworthy to mark that the foreign enterprise supported by Belgian capital is thriving very well in the various parts of the world.

I may be allowed to mention here that an Indian enterprise would easily find ready response from the Belgian capitalists, if attempts were made in the proper direction and through the proper channel and if the capitalists were convinced that the enterprise would be a paying one. The sphere of influence of the Belgian Banks extends in various countries even outside Europe, such as Egypt, South America, China, Central Africa, Argentine Republic, &c. In all the places where Belgian capital is utilized, it is invested mostly in agriculture, mines, public

works, railways, tramways and other industrial pursuits. Among the list of the Companies whose shares are quoted by the Brussels Exchange, not less than 63 are purely Belgian concerns. It will not be out of place to remind my readers of the most important part Belgium has played in the establishment of an entire industrial organization in Russia, besides the Belgian capital which materially helped the building up of a vast empire, the Congo States. Who will deny the facts, how Belgian Banks have contributed towards the prosperity of the Land of Pharaohs? These facts alone will be sufficient to prove the most successful and extensive operations conducted by the Belgian Banks.



CHAPTER V.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

Business System.—The general business in Belgium is carried out on c. i. f. terms, but the inland sales are usually made on the delivery terms. The Cereals trade is carried out on usual London or Antwerp trade conditions. The conditions in force for the time being are prescribed by the “London Corn Trade Association” and “Chambre Arbitrale et de Conciliation pour Grains et Graines” and “Incorporated Oilseed Association” of London and the terms and stipulations of the aforesaid are binding on the parties contracting. Since 1904 a Company has been established at Antwerp mostly to handle the grain trade and this Antwerp Grain Work Company is working under the direct supervision of the Committee of Commerce and the working of which is reported to be highly satisfactory.

I may be allowed to draw the attention of Belgian agents and buyers who are dealing direct with several native firms, the risk they run in several instances when the party is not a British subject. Several Belgian firms being ignorant as to the Indian laws and regulations have suffered heavy losses on account of the parties they were dealing with being residents of Native States. It is a

matter of great satisfaction that by a recent Government notification, dated July 7th, 1908, the decrees of the Civil Courts in British India can be executed in the territories of His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda and similarly the decrees of the Gaekwar Civil Courts can also be executed in British India.

For the information of my readers, the exact copy of the resolution over referred to is inserted here.

Political Department,

Bombay Castle, 7th July 1908.

No. 4637. The following notification by the Government of India in the Foreign Department is republished for general information :—

“ No. 2684 I. A., dated Simla the 3rd July 1908. In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 229 B of the Code of Civil Procedure (Act XIV of 1882) the Governor-General in Council is pleased to declare that the Decree of the Civil Courts situate in the territories of His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda which have not been established or continued by the authority of the Governor-General in Council, may be executed in British India as if they had been made by the Courts of British India.”

(Signed) S. H. Butler,

Secretary to the Govt. of India.

By order of His Excellency the Hon'ble
the Governor-in-Council.

(Signed) H. O. Quin,

Acting Secretary to Government.

Among the Native dealers in grains and oil seeds who are directly or indirectly working with Belgian firms, several are the subjects of His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda, and in case of dispute and further proceedings for the recovery of the debt, the resolution quoted above will be of very great use and material help to the Belgian houses.

Among other causes the chief cause I find generally given by foreign houses why they are unwilling to have direct business relations with Indian firms is the facility they (Indian firms) enjoy under the present Insolvency Act in India to ruin any foreign house in the regular business connection at any time by taking shelter under this Act, which protects them so easily. The reason put forth by the foreign firms is not groundless, as several instances have come to the notice of almost all the foreign Consulates in which foreign firms had to suffer a good deal. In some instances, it is very curious to note that Belgian firms had to suffer heavily in their business with Indian firms after full trial of their business relations extending over 15 years or more!! This was not due to any fluctuations of the market or want of business tact, but to the easy protection afforded by the Insolvency Act.

I have noticed on several occasions the wholesale charge brought by several responsible

European officers and business men against Indian merchants and dealers that the standard of commercial morality among Native merchants and dealers is very low. Even His Excellency Lord Lamington, the late Governor of Bombay, while addressing the Chamber of Commerce at Bombay is also reported to have endorsed this opinion to a certain extent. I should not attempt to go deep to the root to prove whether these remarks or opinions generally expressed in European quarters have a particular bearing, and would only cite what Mr. H. E. E. Procter, the Chairman of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, had to say in reviewing the work of the Chamber at its Annual Meeting in the year 1906 :

“ This question of free trade *versus* protection, which has really been brought up again through foreign competition, suggests another matter and one which perhaps at present lies closer to us just now than Free Trade or Protection. It is a question of commercial morality. There is no doubt in my mind that the standard of commercial morality is not so high as it was some years ago, and as far as I can ascertain, the cause of this is the excessive competition which now exists and the difficulty firms find in getting the business they used to get. In order to do so, means are resorted to, which are certainly not right and which even many of those who practise them admit are wrong, but justify

themselves by stating that they do so because other people do it, and that unless they do the same they will lose business. This, however, gentlemen, I think you will agree with me, is absolutely wrong, and, if persisted in, must certainly bring down the standard of commercial morality. You may perhaps think that this is not a subject to be touched upon at a meeting such as this, but our Chamber of Commerce was established to promote and protect the general mercantile interests of this Presidency, and anything that tends to lower the standard of commercial morality must be combated and can best be so done by openly admitting that the evil exists and doing what we can to stop it. That what I say is true, and that this evil not only exists but is increasing, you know as well as I do, and I would therefore appeal to all members of this Chamber to do everything in their power to maintain a high standard of commercial morality in this city and, however keen competition may be, to allow no means that are otherwise than open and honest."

But I venture to enquire of the commercial class to mention any country where such things do not exist? Besides it is unfair to judge the morality of the whole commercial class of a particular country from a few bad instances. Disputes, disappointments, profits or otherwise are the chief relative stages of business in any country.

But surely they should not be cited as reasons to check the growth of business; otherwise there will be no development of commerce without which no country can ever attain a prosperous condition.

Turning again to the sources of disappointment of foreign firms as related over, I may mention here for their own guidance that the new Insolvency Bill at present before the Viceroy's Council, when passed, will, I am sure, afford every help to the foreign houses in their dealings with Indian merchants and dealers as it aims at the protection of the interests of creditors, whereas the principal function of the old Act has been to relieve insolvent debtors and to leave honest creditors at their mercy.

Most of the Belgian manufacturers and agents, as a matter of fact, like to dispose of their goods on the spot, and several German, French and English houses thus take the advantage of purchasing the goods on spot for export purposes. Several foreign houses thus export Belgian goods to India on a large scale as already shown.*

I have pointed out in one of the preceding chapters the sheer necessity of having some Belgian firms in India to deal directly in Belgian goods and I once more draw the particular attention of those firms who are very anxious to extend

* *Vide* Chapter II.

their business, to establish themselves in India, where they will find suitable markets for their goods. I think it is my duty at the same time to warn them to be very careful in over indulging themselves in the prevailing system of "Credit" which has become very favorite among the merchants and dealers in India. I know in several countries the practice of giving long credits of over 3 months prevailing, but this may be adopted only in certain cases and with the approved and tried clients only.

● *Educational System.*—The educational system in this country is in no way inferior to her sister countries in Europe. There are several elementary schools conducted by the Educational Department, and as a matter of fact in each parish there is one or more Government schools, besides some Catholic schools. There are two State Universities, one at Ghent and other at Liege, in addition to other two free Universities at Brussels and Louvain. Each of these Universities comprises of the Faculties of Philosophy, Law, Medicine, Science and Theology.

The special colleges attached to these Universities are College for Civil Engineers; Arts and Manufacturers; Mining Engineers, Electrical Engineers and Agriculture. There are also High Schools and Institutions for Commerce, Navigation, Veterinary, Horticultural and Fine

Arts, Military training having its meet share as well.

The cause of the rapid prosperity of Belgium year after year is only due to the great impetus given to the technical education, which is predominant throughout the country. The technical schools and institutions are under the direct supervision of the Department of Commerce and Labour, which appoints a Board of Supervisors who look after the teaching of the students as well as the sanitary and hygienic state of the institutions. Belgium is said to be the first country to establish domestic training schools, a policy whose results are so far-reaching.

The training of boys for professional and industrial purposes is carried out very carefully according to the demand. At various schools instruction is given in carpentry, plumbing, painting, mechanical and civil engineering, book-binding, spinning and weaving, dyeing, tanning, watch-making, fire-arm manufacturing, tailoring, engraving, iron and steel working, &c. Both the theory and practice are given rigid attention to, in these institutions.

There are besides several private grant-in-aid institutions where training is given in almost all the branches as mentioned above. There is also a school for textile industry and the training given there has proved most useful to the Textile Industry

in Belgium. The practical training in this institution has reached such a stage of perfection that every year weaving mills apply to this institution to supply them competent hands to serve as Foremen in their mills.

The successful students are offered employment in the local mills immediately after their graduation and thus their future is guaranteed. The Government also do not fall back in giving due encouragement to these institutions by way of scholarships, prizes, &c. Besides Government generally grant preference to the graduates of technical schools when appointing officers in the Engineering and Agricultural Departments of the State.

As a matter of fact, the technical education in all its branches has reached a high pitch of perfection in Belgium. There are no particular restrictions of any kind for outsiders preventing them from taking advantage of these institutions, and I would now suggest that Indian students desiring to attain proficiency in technical and commercial training may select some of the Belgian Institutions where theory and practice are so well attended to.

The superior Institute of Commerce at Antwerp which is under the direct management of the Government and which imparts education in all the branches of commerce in several languages, *e.g.*, French, Dutch, German, English, Spanish, Italian, &c., will be a suitable institution for Indian students

who desire to be trained in commercial lines only. After two or three years of study at this institution according to the special subjects chosen, the successful students are given diplomas as Licenciates in Commercial Sciences.

Among other facilities afforded the one noteworthy is a very large and complete Museum of the principal products attached to this institution to enable the teachers to give practical instructions in the commercial lines.



